

matter has been introduced by the new claims and the amendment of the specification. The cancellation of claims 1-31 and the addition of new claims 32-84 have been made in a good faith effort to advance the prosecution on the merits. Applicants reserve the right to subsequently take up prosecution of the claims as originally filed in this application or in continuation, continuation-in-part and/or divisional applications. Please enter the following response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

In a telephone interview on May 16, 2002, the Examiner indicated that the subject matter recited in the new claims appears to be allowable over the references of record. All claims pending in the application should therefore be allowable. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's courtesy of scheduling and conducting the interview.

Claims 1-31 stand restricted under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Claims 1-10 were provisionally elected with traverse on December 14, 2001. The Examiner requests an affirmation of this election by responding to the Office Action. Applicants confirm election of claims 1-10, but claims 1-10 have been cancelled without prejudice and new claims 32-84 have been added herein. It is believed that the new claims are proper and should be examined together.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Taylor et al.*, US 6,203,684 B1 and claims 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Taylor et al.*, US 6,203,684 B1 and further in view of *Tsai et al.* US 6,224,737 B1. Claims 1-10, however, have been cancelled without prejudice. The rejection, therefore, is now moot as it pertains to claims 1-10. As to new claims 32-84, the examiner has indicated during the interview that the subject matter of the new claims appear to be distinguishable over the prior art of record. Therefore, new claims 32-84 should be allowable.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, neither alone nor in combination, teach, show, or suggest the method or process of the present invention. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

The prior art made of record is noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, it is believed that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not deemed necessary for a full and complete response to this office action. Accordingly, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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## APPENDIX

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

**Step 2:** This step involves attracting the metal ions in close proximity to the entire topography of the seed layer on the substrate including the portion of the seed layer covering the feature such that the metal can be deposited on the different portions of the seed layer 15 on the substrate (including within the feature), as described below. In FIG. 3, reference character 312 shows one embodiment of step 2 current. Step 2 is performed with the seed layer 15 of the substrate having a negative bias voltage ranging from 2 to 10 volts relative to the anode (one embodiment uses 5 volts). As indicated by the equation above, 5 volts applied between the seed [anode] layer and the anode results in an approximate plating direct current of 5.41 amps for a 200mm diameter substrate. The 5.41 amp value applied for a substrate that is completely immersed in the electrolyte solution and the current has stabilized following ramping. The duration of step 1 is effected by the electric current ramping rate of the substrate being inserted into the electrolyte solution. Step 2 combined with step 1 typically lasts from 1/4 to 2 seconds, and not more than 5 seconds.